

Talking Points
For the Honorable Shana Dale
NASA Deputy Administrator
Introduction of "In the Shadow of the Moon"
For Inaugural First Footprints Celebration
July 20, 2007

Thank you David (Mould, the MC) for that kind introduction. And welcome to all of you here in the audience.

I would like to thank our distinguished guests from the Hill and a special thank you to David Sington, the Director of this movie. Thank you, David, for allowing our team to watch this at Headquarters and the NASA Centers before the official release in September. We are honored.

But, I especially would like to thank David for having the passion, as we do, for the space program -- to see a project like this through completion. We know first-hand space is not easy and your work and perseverance are admired and appreciated.

There are two special things about today. First is the movie. Second, this is also the kickoff event for First Footprints which I hope will become an annual event. I would like to spend a few moments talking about why we have set this day aside.

Thirty-eight years ago today, at 10:56 pm eastern time, Neil Armstrong stepped from the Lunar Module into the Sea of Tranquility and proclaimed, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." We want to honor that occasion by having an annual event and what better way to kick it off than with this movie.

Tonight's movie, "In the Shadow of the Moon," brings back the vivid colors of the Apollo era. David Sington, Producer Duncan Copp, and their colleagues transferred footage of those missions (which I am certain many of you in the audience recall) to high definition digital video, and then mixed in interviews with the exceptional explorers who went on those missions.

As you will be able to tell, many in Hollywood are as passionate about space as we are. Our friends in film have added immeasurable value to the

program. And I'm committed to working with them as we press forward into a new era of exploration.

Today, we are stepping outward again. What was once a vision is now action and will become reality. For at the direction of the President and the Congress, NASA is going beyond low earth orbit and into a new era of exploration. Through the Constellation program, we're building Ares rockets and an Orion crew vehicle; spacecraft that will be capable of carrying us to the Moon and beyond. Perhaps 50 years after our next lunar landing, a future John Singleton will show footage of our outposts, where once we visited and then stayed.

Thank you all again for being here, this is very exciting and I know you will enjoy the show. Now ladies and gentleman, the Director, Mr. Singleton.